



ESSA EDUCATION STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Meeting. The first meeting of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Education Stakeholder group was held by the Iowa Department of Education on August 18, 2016. The goal of the meeting was to inform participants about the progress of the creation of the ESSA plan, which must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by the March or July deadline. The meeting also served to bring many interested parties together and to give a brief overview of the scope and scale of the changes being brought on by ESSA.

Committee. The stakeholders invited by the Department of Education represented various education organizations across the state, including Iowa State Educators Association (ISEA), Professional Educators of Iowa (PEI), School Administrators of Iowa (SAI), Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB), Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), Urban Educators Network (UEN), Rural School Advocates of Iowa (RSAI), Area Education Agencies (AEAs), nonpublic schools, and the State Board of Education. There were also members from the Democratic caucus staff and representatives from other student-focused organizations, including Iowa's Talented and Gifted Association and a fine arts coalition.

Discussion. The meeting began with an overview of the ESSA, including the history of national education legislation, dating back to the Civil Rights era of the 1960s, and the shift from No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and Race to the Top to what is now Every Student Succeeds. The primary shift with ESSA is around accountability. States must determine their own accountability model that is based on measures of student achievement and may include measures of student engagement, access to advanced coursework, school climate, and safety. ESSA no longer references A Year's Progress (AYP), turnaround models, highly qualified teachers, and a number of other provisions from NCLB.

Within the Department of Education, eight groups are responsible for leading the process of creating the Iowa ESSA framework. These are:

- Standards and assessment group
- Policy and communication group
- Finance group
- Accountability group
- School intervention group (very closely linked to Accountability group)
- Educator quality group
- Legal foundations group
- Early Childhood group

The Department received suggestions from the stakeholders about their initial key principles and guiding assumptions that will form the underpinnings of creating the statewide plan.

Future Meeting. The next meeting of the ESSA Education Stakeholder group will be Wednesday, October 19, 2016.

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